

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 0075 VICE 0050)

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SUBJECT: DANISH CONTRIBUTION TO US BICENTENNIAL

1. NOW THAT WE HAVE ENTERED OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE DEPT'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE DENMARK ATTACHES TO THIS ANNIVERSARY AND WHAT DENMARK ITSELF PLANS TO DO TO MARK THIS OCCASION. DENMARK IS PERHAPS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH FOR YEARS HAS CELEBRATED JULY 4, USING THIS ANNUAL OCCASION TO REAFFIRM THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES LINKING DENMARK AND THE U.S. FOR THE 1976 CELEBRATIONS DENMARK HAS ALREADY TAKEN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT STEPS WHICH I BELIEVE THE USG SHOULD KNOW ABOUT. THE DANES TAKE THIS BICENTENNIAL EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY AND I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST SHOW APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING FOR WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

2. FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THE VISIT TO THE US OF QUEEN MARGRETHE II AND PRINCE HENRIK. THE DEPT. IS AWARE OF SOME OF THE PLANNING FOR THIS VISIT WHICH I HAVE ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS AND WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN GAVE IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 12. OTHER DANISH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

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A. THE DANISH BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE

SPEAKER OF THE FOKETING, IS MADE UP OF LEADERS FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF DANISH SOCIETY. THIS DANISH COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AND IS OPERATING ON A BUDGET OF \$650,000. THE MORE IMPORTANT PROJECTS INCLUDE: CELEBRATIONS BY THE REBILD SOCIETY (THE GROUP NEAR AALBORG IN JUTLAND WHICH HAS CELEBRATED JULY 4 EVER SINCE 1912) IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND SOLVANG, CALIFORNIA. DURING THE MONTH OF MAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE QUEEN'S VISIT, FORMER PRIME MINISTER HARTLING HAS AGREED TO PRESIDE OVER THE FUNCTION IN SOLVANG AND OTHER LEADING DANES ARE BEING INVITED TO ATTEND THE CEREMONIES IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO. PLANS ARE UNDER WAY FOR TWO-WAY TELEVISION TRANSMISSIONS BETWEEN DENMARK AND THESE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS.

B. DANISH MUSICIANS AND FOLK DANCERS WILL TAKE PART IN THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE'S FESTIVAL BEGINNING IN WASHINGTON JUNE 21. THE NAVAL TRAINING SHIP, "DENMARK", WILL SAIL FROM BERMUDA TO NEW YORK, ARRIVING ON JULY 4.

C. ANTIQUE DANISH FURNITURE FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

D. NEW BOOKS AND MATERIALS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE 14 AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES TEACHING DANISH.

E. DANISH FUNDS ARE BEING USED TO RESTORE AN OLD DANISH CHURCH IN ILLINOIS.

F. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO SEND THE COPENHAGEN BOYS CHOIR ON TOUR SO THAT THEY CAN PERFORM ON DANISH CONSTITUTION DAY (JUNE 5) IN PHILADELPHIA.

G. A DANISH FURNITURE EXHIBIT WILL OPEN IN BOSTON MAY 19 SHOWING THE INFLUENCE OF NEW ENGLAND DESIGNERS ON DANISH PRODUCTS.

H. THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY IN WASHINGTON WILL SHOW AN EXHIBIT OF GULDAGER PRINTS (A DANISH PAINTER OF THE 18TH CENTURY) OF PROMINENT AMERICANS, INCLUDING GEORGE WASHINGTON. THE QUEEN WILL OPEN THIS EXHIBIT DURING HER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON VISIT.

I. THE ROYAL BALLET WILL PERFORM AT THE KENNEDY CENTER ON CONJUNCTION WITH THE QUEEN'S VISIT AND AT THAT TIME THE DANISH GOVT PLANS TO GIVE AN APPROPRIATE PIECE OF ART TO THE CENTER.

J. THE DANISH LIFE GUARD BAND WILL TOUR THE STATES IF

THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FUNDS.

K. THE RENWICK GALLERY IN WASHINGTON WILL OPEN AN EXHIBIT OF ARNE JAKOBSEN'S ARCHITECTURE AT THE TIME OF THE QUEEN'S VISIT IN MAY. THE EXHIBIT WILL THEN TOUR THE STATES.

I. THE DANISH POST OFFICE WILL ISSUE A SERIES OF FOUR STAMPS COMMEMORATING DANISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

M. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WILL DEVOTE A COMPLETE ISSUE OF ITS QUARTERLY PUBLICATION, "THE DANISH JORNAL", TO DANISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

N. THE DANISH BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE HAS SPONSORED THE PUBLICATION OF A BOOK ENTITLED, "DENMARK GETS THE NEWS OF '76". THE BOOK IS BEAUTIFULLY PUT TOGETHER AND WILL BE SOLD FOR 100 DKR (ABOUT \$16) A COPY.

3. IN ADDITION TO WHAT THE DANES ARE DOING IN THE US, THE REBILD SOCIETY IN DENMARK PLANS EXTENSIVE AND ELABORATE PRO-GRAMS FOR SEVERAL DAYS AROUND JULY4. THE PRINCIPAL DANISH GUEST WILL BE QUEEN MARGRETH WITH THE FAMOUS DANISH COMEDIAN VICTOR BORGE AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES. THE REBILD SOCIETY HAD HOPED THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE ON THAT OCCASION, BUT UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE THEN, HAS INVITED MRS. LADY BIRD JOHNSON. (TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE SHE HAS NOT YET REPLIED.) THE EMBASSY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE REBILD FESTIVAL WILL BE EXTENSIVE AND WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE, AS IN PAST YEARS, A VISIT BY AN AMERICAN NAVAL VESSEL.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE REBILD FESTIVAL, AN AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE FOR DENMARK HAS BEEN FORMED, CONSISTING OF DANISH AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERS PLUS THE DCM AND CAO. WE ARE SUPPORTING THIS COMMITTEE IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY, EXCEPT FINANCIALLY, AND ARE PARTICULARLY COORDINATING THE CULTURAL PROGRAM. PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED ARE PRODUCTIONS OF OPERAS BY AMERICAN COMPOSERS, AN AMERICAN SPORTS EXHIBIT AND PHOTO EXHIBITS.

5. IN ADDITION, IF FUNDS CAN BE OBTAINED, A SORT OF "STATE FAIR" IS CONTEMPLATED IN COPENHAGEN'S CONFERENCE CENTER WHICH WOULD COMBINE EXHIBITS AND COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS BY THE VARIOUS STATE REPRESENTATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, USA IS SENDING THE BICENTENNIAL PHOTO EXHIBIT, "REFLECTIONS", TO COPENHAGEN IN JUNE.

6. I HAVE LISTED THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES IN DETAIL SO THAT THE DEPT. WILL REALIZE THE EXTENSIVE PLANNING WHICH IS TAKING PLACE HERE. THE DANES ARE MAKING, CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THEIR COUNTRY, AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR BICENTENNIAL. THIS CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN MADE TOTALLY ON THEIR OWN, WITHOUT ANY COACHING OR ADVICE FROM US. THE KEY ELEMENT, HOWEVER, FOR THE DANES IN THE ENTIRE BICENTENNIAL PROJECT IS THE QUEEN'S VISIT. MOST OF HER PROGRAM IN THE US WILL BE HANDLED PRIVATELY OR BY THE DANISH GOVT. HOWEVER, THE DANES AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY AND ALL POLITICAL PARTIES FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE QUEEN SHOULD BE WARMLY GREETED IN WASHINGTON AS APPROPRIATE FOR A CHIEF OF STATE.

7. IN HER VISIT WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IF WE CAN RESPOND TO THESE DANISH INITIATIVES BY MAKING THE QUEEN'S VISIT A SUCCESS, A SMALL EFFORT ON OUR PART WILL HAVE PAID LARGE DIVIDENDS AND WILL SET THE TONE FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.
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